

Student information centre opens doors to public

by Amin Kassam

Even if the newly-opened Student Information Centre guarantees no instant solutions, it promises to do its best to resolve problems.

Staffed by volunteers and sponsored by the Students' Society, the Centre's main aim is to act as a resource agency.

The SIC hopes to eventually have comprehensive information about services, both on-campus as well as off-campus which will enable it to deal with practically any problem a student may face.

It already has information concerning a multitude of subjects

ranging from course-counselling to housing and the availability of legal help.

The information for these files was gathered by SIC volunteers through interviews and questionnaires during the summer months.

The Centre was established with the help of Dr. Marcel Goldschmid, Director of the Centre for Learning and Development, who was also the man behind last year's highly successful Conference on Instructional Innovations in Higher Education.

CLAD has also been responsible this year for the organizations

of the popular Encounter Groups which were part of Freshman Reception.

Student President Hutton Archer has been enthusiastic about the idea of the Centre. Conditional upon Student Council approval at Wednesday's meeting, he has offered to allow SIC the use of the former Union switchboard area.

On of the other offices in the Union has also been placed at SIC's disposal.

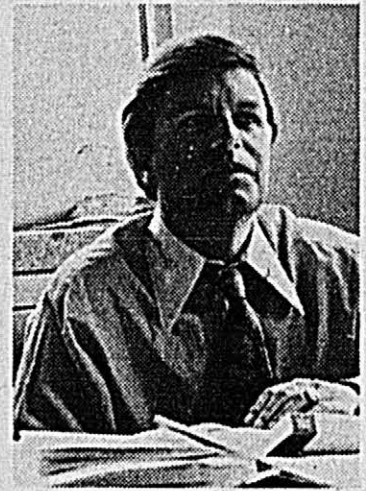
Volunteers for the Centre were obtained during the pre-registration period by having interested people fill out questionnaires.

These students were then contacted by Ed Figlarz, Director of SIC, and intensively interviewed in order to determine their potential as staff members.

Each student was confronted with a set of three situations that he might have to face at SIC and asked how he would deal with them. Upon the basis of these interviews, some of the volunteers were then picked to man the Centre.

Next came the training programme set up by Dr. Goldschmid for all selected volunteers.

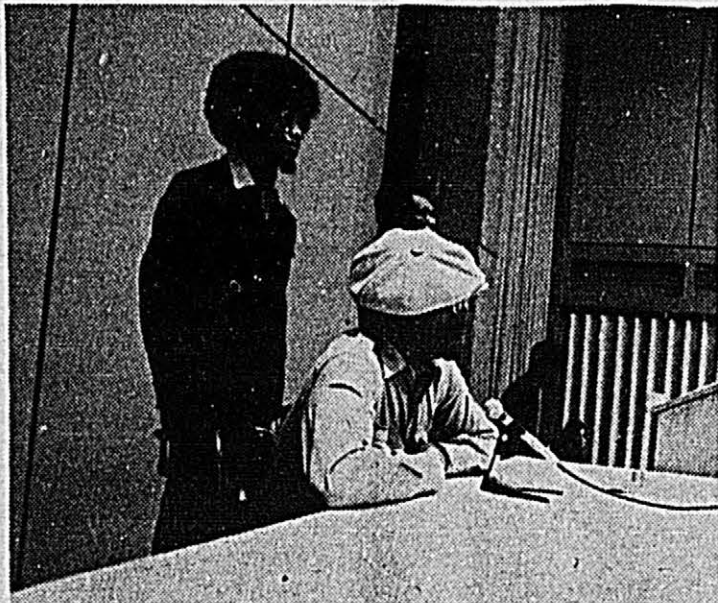
Through participation in learning (Continued on page 2)



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Daily photo by ALEX ALPERN

PANTHER EDUCATION MINISTER Masai Hewitt explains the party's history in a speech sponsored by Freshman Reception. Standing behind Hewitt is his bodyguard.

Reception bombs

Heavy debt expected

The Freshman Reception Programme of the Students' Society appears to be heading for a major financial disaster.

Poor organization and poor attendance have combined to produce a loss of revenue that could lead into the thousands of dollars. Such a loss would deal a crippling blow to the Students' Society, and its austerity-conscious executive.

Submerged in debt, the Society can ill afford such a large deficit from a programme whose very validity has been an object of controversy on campus.

The policy statement, presented by Boris Fabres, chairman of the Freshman Reception Committee,

allowed for a reasonably balanced programme of social and educational events.

Faced, however, with poor turnouts at most of the events, organizers now feel that the programme was perhaps too well-balanced.

Mr. Fabres stated, "We tried to please everyone and that's just impossible".

Mr. Fabres also blamed the Student Council office for much of the disorganization, describing it as a "nightmare of bureaucracy".

Nigel Gibson, treasurer of the Freshman Reception Committee, stated that an "efficient and business-like approach to the whole question was lacking."

"In a year when the Students' Society is struggling for its very existence, one just cannot afford the inefficiency and wasteful extravagance that characterised the programme," added Gibson.

The treasurer termed the \$1,700 paid the Black Panther speaker an "exercise in extravagance".

"There is absolutely no reason why with careful planning and tight spending the Freshman Reception Programme should not pay for itself," concluded Gibson.

At this stage, it is only a matter of how great the final loss will be. If the Freshman Dance this coming Saturday is unpopular, the deficit could run into the \$5,000 bracket.

Whatever the amount of the final loss, one thing seems sure: this will be the last year for Freshman Reception.

As the Chairman stated, "This programme was designed for the freshmen, but if they just don't take advantage of it, all it becomes is a waste of time and money".

Panthers at ballroom

by Nigel Gibson

In a tense atmosphere of heavy security, Panther Minister of Education Masai Hewitt brought the Black revolution to McGill University.

Speaking to a crowd of about 400 students in the Union Ballroom, Friday night, Hewitt described the inception and history of the Black Panther Party in America.

He attacked the smug racist attitudes of many Canadians by comparing the plight of the Indians Eskimos and French-Canadians to that of the black man in the United States.

"Wherever there are poor and oppressed people, be they red, brown, yellow, black or white, there will be Panthers," stated Hewitt.

The black leader refused to call for the overthrow of the Canadian Government, stating, "I don't even know if there is a Canadian government."

He did, however, compare the Canadian police to their American counterparts and invited students "to start something, and then see how the pigs react."

The head of the Montreal anti-terrorist squad visited the Union in the afternoon to warn of dire threats by Maoists and other "trouble-makers."

The meeting was quite uneventful however, and the same officer, seen yawning at the back of the hall during the first part of the speech, left early.

Evening students fight fee hike

by Phyllis Ball

Wayne Gray, President of the Sir George Williams Evening Students' Association, claimed yesterday that evening students are the victims of heavy-handed discrimination.

Gray is organizing an intensive campaign against a 10 percent hike in evening student fees which was announced by the university in August.

"We're going to fight this thing as far as we can," he said.

"This increase isn't fair, it just doesn't make sense."

Evening student fees have been raised from \$90 to \$99, and lab fees from \$40 to \$44. There was no increase, however, in the fees for day students.

In June, Gray claims, a university task force recommended a 6 percent fee increase for both evening and day students.

"But then the Minister of Education decided, I've been told, that 10,000 evening students had

to bail the university out of its financial difficulties all by themselves," Gray said.

Gray at first hoped to organize a strike of all evening students to pressure for a refund of fees.

"But evening students don't seem to go for strikes," he said "They're more conservative than day students and they have different priorities, like families and jobs."

Instead, the EAS is preparing a resumé of the situation to take to local Members of Parliament, the provincial Prices and Wages Commission and the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

"I think the most we can hope for are medium and long-range benefits," he added. "But there's still some hope for refunds this year if the federal government will intervene."

The ESA is also preparing a report to take to the university administration complaining about the restricted course variety and the high student-teacher ratios which evening students are forced to endure.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEW COURSE — E.29, E.201

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Primarily for CEGEP-2. Students in other years (except final year) will be accepted. First year students should seek permission to take the course.

Course begins today.

Black Studies

The Black Studies Association will be holding its first meeting of the year today in the Union Building at 7:30 p.m. For further information call 932-4372.

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Student...

(Continued from page 1)

ing cells and role-playing sessions, the volunteers received instruction in data gathering, information processing, communication, consultation, and feedback.

Simulated problems were presented to the students for analysis. Students took turns at dealing with each problem, their

performances being commented upon and criticized by their colleagues.

Figlarz identifies problems as falling into two categories. The first, he says, is the simple one of a need for information. This does not create any complications.

The second one is where the student requires "help", as distinct from only information. It is this aspect of SIC's operations that the training concentrated on.

During the training period, it

was also emphasized that, although SIC volunteers were being trained in person-to-person communication, they would not endeavour, in any way, to compete with existing services.

The volunteers were told, for example, that they should not attempt to act as amateur psychologists or lawyers; they should merely direct students to the appropriate services which have the facilities to deal with their particular problems.

"We don't do things for people. We help students to do the things they want to do", says Figlarz.

Students wishing to approach SIC for help can do so at the former switchboard area in the Union. If their problem is one of information they can get it directly from the volunteer in the booth.

If they have a more personal problem, however, they can ask to speak confidentially with one of the staff members.

To maintain its efficiency, SIC envisions an ambitious programme of continual updating of information as well as on-going training and exchange-information sessions for the staff; but in order to survive, the Centre will have to prove its worth.

Today

SAVOY SOCIETY: Union B26-27. Chorus and lead auditions for "H. M.S. Pinafore," 7-10 p.m.

RADIO MCGILL: Campus. In-sound, 4-7 p.m.

NEWMAN CENTRE: 3484 Peel St. Film. Passolini's "Gospel according to St. Matthew", 8 p.m.

SECOND HAND BOOK EXCHANGE: Union B23-24. Collection of books, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

CHESS CLUB: Union B26. First meeting of the year, 1-3 p.m.

CHEERLEADERS: Lobby of Sir Arthur Currie Bldg. Support Intercollegiate Football. Tryouts for male cheerleaders. Enthusiasm a necessity! 5 p.m.

CHEERLEADERETTES: Lobby of Sir Arthur Currie Bldg. Practice, 5 p.m.

SECOND HAND BOOK EXCHANGE: Collection this week everyday from 10 to 4. Sales will start on Monday at the same hours. The exchange is being held in B23-24 Bring books that you no longer need and get those that you do!

MCGILL DAILY

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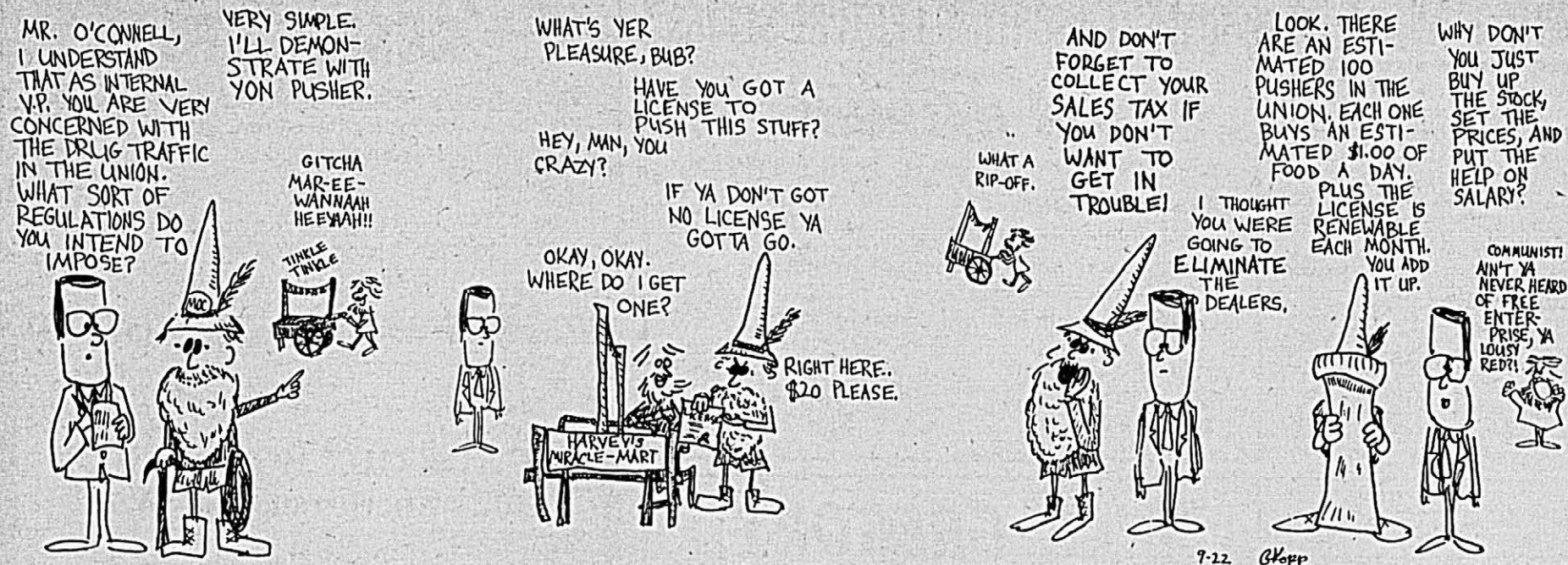
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New rules for Union

by Stuart Gibson

Drug pushers, Hare Krishnites and other assorted characters who are "abusing" Students' Union building privileges - beware! Big Brother is watching you.

The brand new "McGill University Students' Centre Manual of Rules and Regulations" has just been released, and specific provisions will be put into effect to forbid drug trafficking, and literature-vending in the building pending Council approval. According to building manager Frank Costi, however, only pushers of "hard" stuff like heroin, LSD,

and mescaline have reason to fear being "busted".

According to Costi, most of the pot and hash pushers are American army deserters, whom it would not be fair to prosecute.

Internal Vice-President Kevin O'Connell, one of the prime authors of the new regulations, said that he "won't stand for any flagrant violations" of the drug regulations.

"Last year we had two rival gangs selling drugs" O'Connell noted. O'Connell, however, stressed that he would be flexible with the soft drug pushers.

The selling of all forms of pa-

pers and magazines will apply both to Logos and to such groups as the McGill Christian Fellowship, Costi warned.

"However, if these groups cut the Society in on their profits, we'll of course reconsider," quipped the four year veteran of the Students' Union wars.

Another possibly contentious regulation of the Manual states that all meetings held by any constitutionalized society must be open.

Stressing the term "open", the Vice-President emphasized that any person must be allowed to attend any society meeting.

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